

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9995
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14857

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, FR, UK
SUBJECT: THE CGT AND THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION
CONFEDERATION

REF: PARIS 29608

1. CFDT REPRESENTATIVE (MAIRE) AND AIDE WERE AMONG
FOREIGN TRADE UNION VISITORS AT RECENT BRIGHTON
TRADES UNION CONGRESS. HOWEVER, NO JOINT CFDT/TUC
ANNOUNCEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CGT MEMBERSHIP WAS PASSED
AT THE CONGRESS NOR HAVE WE BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE TEXT
OF ANY SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT OR PRESS REFERENCES TO ONE.
PRESUMABLY PRESS REPORTS MENTIONED IN PARIS REFTEL
BASED ON PARAGRAPH IN INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF TUC
ANNUAL REPORT APPROVED BY THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS
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WHICH REFERS TO THE VISIT TO PARIS MAY 8 - 9 TO THE CFDT
BY A TUC DELEGATION INCLUDING JACK JONES, LEN MURRAY
AND ALAN HARGREAVES (HEAD TUC INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT)
AND SOME OTHER MEMBERS OF TUC GENERAL COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE REPORT STATED
"CFDT SHARED MANY TUC ATTITUDES, RECOGNIZING THE
PRACTICAL OBSTACLES TO THE WFTU, SUPPORTING THE

ADMISSION OF THE CGT TO THE ETUC, AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE ALL EUROPEAN CONFERENCES WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE HAD CONTRIBUTED TO A REDUCTION IN TENSION AND TO THE POSSIBILITY OF RATIONAL EXCHANGES." ALSO, JACK JONES, AS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, IN INTRODUCING THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF THE TUC ANNUAL REPORT, INCLUDED REMARKS THAT, "IN FIVE YEARS EVERY MAJOR NATIONAL CENTER IN WESTERN EUROPE, EXCEPT ONE, (HE DID NOT SPECIFY CGT) HAS FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE EUROPEAN TUC (AND) . . .THE GENERAL COUNCIL HAVE PURSUED THE PRINCIPLE OF MAXIMUM UNITY WITH ALL THE TRADE UNION CENTERS IN WESTERN EUROPE FOR A FULLY INCLUSIVE ETUC."

2. HARGREAVES SAYS TUC WANTS CGT IN ETUC, REGARDLESS OF OF FEELINGS, AND CLAIMS THAT NORWEGIANS AGREE. WHILE CLAIMING THAT "FOR THE MOMENT, THERE IS NOT MUCH MOVEMENT ON CGT AFFILIATION TO THE ETUC." HE STRESSES VIEW THAT "IT WILL HAPPEN ONE DAY." HE DISCOUNTS REPORTS OF ANNOUNCEMENTS ETUC PRESIDENT HEINZ VETTER WILL NOT SEEK REELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF ETUC. HARGREAVES SAYS HE, PERSONALLY, IS STILL UNCERTAIN OF VETTER'S INTENTIONS TO LEAVE ETUC POST. NOTWITHSTANDING PRESS REPORTS OF VETTER'S REMARKS THAT HE WILL SEEK SEAT IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

3. OTHER (NON-BRITISH) LONDON CONTACTS INFORM US
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THAT EVEN IF VETTER LEAVES ETUC, DGB REMAINS OPPOSED TO CGT AFFILIATION (IN VIEW OF ITS COMMUNIST DOMINATION AND WFTU TIES) AND WOULD WITHDRAW FROM ETUC IF CGT WERE ADMITTED UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, SCANDINAVIANS, HOWEVER, MAY PRIVATELY BE INDICATING SHIFT IN POSITION FROM THAT OF OPPOSING CGT AFFILIATION AS LONG AS THERE IS OBJECTION FROM ANOTHER FRENCH NATIONAL CENTER (I.E. FO) TO THAT OF GOING ALONG WITH CGT MEMBERSHIP SHOULD A CONSENSUS EMERGE IN THE ETUC FOR ACCEPTANCE.

4. ACCORDING TO BRITISH AND NON-BRITISH LONDON SOURCES, TUC, DGB, AND SCANDINAVIANS SEEM AGREED TO BACK LENNART BODSTROM OF SWEDISH TCO FOR ETUC PRESIDENCY.

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